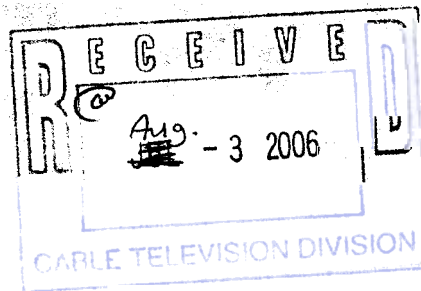




COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

SENATOR STEVEN C. PANAGIOTAKOS
FIRST MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
ROOM 218
OFFICE TEL. (617) 722-1630
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VICE CHAIRMAN:
SENATE WAYS AND MEANS

July 28, 2006

Ms. Judith F. Judson
Chairwoman, Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Chairwoman Judson,

I hope this letter finds that all is well. Many of my constituents have recently contacted my office with their concerns regarding competitive local cable. As you know, Verizon has recently submitted a proposal to your department in the hopes of expediting the municipal franchise process. I write today to encourage you to consider their proposal at your earliest convenience, with the hope that cable customers in the Commonwealth might soon benefit from its effects.

I support incorporating cable choice into Massachusetts. I believe it is time that Massachusetts consumers have a choice of providers for their cable services. Ultimately, more choice means better rates, better services, and a better product for the consumer. According to a survey done by the American Consumer Institute in March of 2006, replicating the competitive environment of Texas' cable television market nationwide would save U.S. consumers \$23 billion dollars per year. It is my hope that Massachusetts consumers will enjoy the same savings as those who reside in Texas, and it is for this reason that I write to you today.

Again, I thank you for your attention regarding this matter. If I, or my staff, can ever be of assistance, please don't hesitate to call my office at (617) 722-1630.

Sincerely,

Steven C. Panagiotakos
State Senator
First Middlesex District

CC: Alicia Matthews, Director, Cable Television Division, Department of Telecommunications and Energy

SCP/em